

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 7 is currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are currently being amended.

Claim 8 is currently being added.

This amendment cancels, adds and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending, adding and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 1-6 and 8 are now pending in this application.

Objection to Claim 6:

In the Office Action, claim 6 was objected to because of a minor informality in that claim. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 6 has been amended in accordance with the helpful suggestion provided in the Office Action, whereby presently pending claim 6 is believed to be unobjectionable.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,886,652 to Adachi; claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0025709 to Kim; claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi in view of Kim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,032 to Hong; and claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 7 and also to include features in which the output code is encoded red data,

encoded green data and encoded blue data which are continuously output by the unit of 1 byte. This amendment is supported by Figures 4 and 7 of the drawings and in the description of those figures in the specification.

In contrast to the features recited in presently pending independent claim 1, Adachi et al. discloses the following. The average of code lengths is calculated. The portion of a code longer than the average is moved into a code whose length is shorter than the average. Then, the codes are output by the unit of the average "S" (see Figure 2 of Adachi et al.). That is, Adachi et al. does not disclose or suggest any equivalent for the features recited in claim 6 by which the output code is the encoded red data, the encoded green data and the encoded blue data which are output continuously by the unit of 1 byte.

Since none of the other cited art of record rectifies the above-mentioned deficiencies of Adachi et al., presently pending independent claim 1 is believed to be in allowable form.

The presently pending dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance due to their dependency on claim 1, as well as for the specific features recited in those claims. For example, claim 3 recites a ratio unit which calculates the ratio of the codes outputted from the plurality of coders based on an amount of the red data, the green data and the blue data, wherein the adjustment unit cuts off the codes based on the ratio, when the value of the code lengths added in the second adder is larger than the output unit stored in the code length memory and wherein the cut-off amount of the codes for the red data, the green data and the blue data is in accordance with the ratio. In its rejection of claim 3, the Office Action relies on Figure 4, steps S4 and S5 of Kim, to disclose the features in that claim. However, step S4 of Kim merely corresponds to a control to turn on respective color components using the same bit number and low luminance, while step S5 of Kim merely corresponds to a control to turn on color component having bad efficiency using the bit number A and to turn on color component having good efficiency using the bit number B. There is no teaching or suggestion in these portions of Kim for cutting off an amount of codes for red data, green data, and blue data, respectively, in accordance with a ratio.

New Claim 8:

New claim 8 has been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to provide a separate basis of patentability for that claim, beyond the reasons given above with respect to its base claim.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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